

The background of the cover is a photograph of National Guard counterdrug program members in a forest. In the foreground on the left, a soldier in camouflage gear and a helmet is seen from the side, looking towards the right. In the lower right, another soldier is crouching in the brush, wearing a bucket hat and sunglasses. Other soldiers are visible in the background, also in camouflage, amidst the dense green foliage and tall trees.

THE CATALYST

*Official Magazine of the National Guard Counterdrug Program
Spring/Summer 2010*

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CHIEF'S CORNER

Welcome to the Spring/Summer issue of the Catalyst. This past March we combined our annual Counterdrug meeting with the NGB Domestic Operations Conference to enhance the opportunity for the state and territory counterdrug programs to gather and interact with other joint programs. I hope all of you that attended took advantage of this occasion to network with the other program experts and create partnerships that will further promote the National Guard Counterdrug Program (NG CDP).

As I mentioned at the conference, the NG CDP is heading in the right direction. We are evolving and taking positive steps to position our most valued resources in areas that provide the greatest successes. With the help of your Counterdrug Advisory Committee, we continually reassess our program in all areas to determine where we can make improvements.

We have an outstanding NGB CPE team and cadre of SMEs visiting states and territories to evaluate our mission execution and investigate ways we can work to revitalize the program. The team sees both the good and the not so good areas and shares best practices to ensure we are managing our resources efficiently and effectively.

Your team at NGB is laying out a map for the future of the NG CDP. Through the strategic plan, we outline where we are going and the objectives we wish to achieve along the way. We are developing action plans that meet these objectives and support the administration's new National Drug Control Strategy. Two key areas we will focus on are a Threat-Based Resourcing Model and our Performance Measurement initiative. These initiatives will be coordinated with senior NGB leadership, the deputy assistant secretary of defence for counternarcotics, the Office of National Drug Control Policy for concurrence, and assets in the field.

We additionally plan to discuss the future of the NG CDP with all stakeholders to include the adjutants general and CDCs to advance our objectives through the upcoming DOD FY12-16 budget cycle. Our ultimate goal is to accelerate additional funding to our program and arrest the downward spiral of support to our customers.

The NG CDP is a valuable NG asset and we must demonstrate its importance and the impact it has on Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and Community Based Organizations (CBO) efforts. We must continually adjust our focus, discover conduits to make the NG CDP more relevant and highlight key accomplishments which have outcomes that can benefit our customers and partners. Through our multi-media initiatives, we are able to share the outstanding work of the NG CDP to the public and highlight the successes and importance of our vital support. Please talk to our LEA partners in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), principals in the schools, leaders in your communities to tell the CD story. They will



**Col. William Carle,
Chief, National Guard
Bureau, J32
Counterdrug Division**

THE CATALYST

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Photojournalist

SrA. Jessica Donnelly

Layout/Graphics

MSgt. Megan Hunter

Contact Information

NGB J3-CDM
Suite 6500

1411 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Arlington, VA 22202
Commercial: 703-607-8689
DSN: 327-8689

tell you stories about the worth of our Soldiers and Airmen to their programs – please pass them on to us for national release and recognition of your program successes. In closing, there will be challenges ahead; however, the NG CDP will continue its 21 year record of providing outstanding service to our LEA and CBO partners, as our committed Soldiers and Airmen continue to serve as outstanding role models and vital contributors to the fight against illegal drugs within our communities and nation.

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Domestic Operations Conference

Photos and story by SrA. Jessica Donnelly



Col. William Carle speaks to a crowd of CDCs, DDRAs and top-notch Counterdrug NCO's at the Counterdrug session of the Domestic Operations conference.

The National Guard Bureau J32 Counterdrug (CD) Program held its annual Counterdrug meeting in collaboration with the Domestic Operations conference March 22-25, bringing Counterdrug coordinators (CDC), Drug Demand Reduction Administrators (DDRA), and other vital personnel together from the 54 state and territory programs.

The annual meeting is a way for Counterdrug leadership to meet with their counterparts while receiving updates on program areas.

"Interdiction is still important, but we need to expand our roles in the community and working with the youth. Who will replace us if our young people are falling into the cracks with drug use?"

-Col. William Carle



Col. William Carle and Maj. Patricia Jones-Johnson stand with the recipients of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Certificates of Appreciation. Each of these outstanding Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Programs submitted a package to CADCA, and even though they did not win, their continued support was still recognized during the Dom Ops conference. Representing their states they are (left to right): Capt. Kraig Kiehl, Pennsylvania; Col. Deborah Coleman, Mississippi; Lt. Col. Steven Reece, Tennessee; Capt. Benjamin Bruening, Missouri; Lt. Col. Michael Muzelak, Florida; and Col. Alden Saddlemire, representing New York.

Making Waves in Hawaii

By Sgt. Haunani Kahiapo and Spc. Bruce Blanton Jr., Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug

It's a regular Friday afternoon and all across the beautiful State of Hawaii most kids are either relaxing at home, cruising Waikiki or looking forward to surfing till the sun sets over the ocean. But here, in the small countryside town of Waimanalo, these afterschool students are stepping up to make the choice of being drug-free. Together they embark on a journey to discover the secret to success for their future.

Twenty students from Hui Malama were introduced to Stay on Track (SOT), a program provided by the National Guard Bureau Drug Demand Reduction Program, designed specifically for Hawaii's youth. This innovative substance abuse prevention program consists of 12 exciting weeks of ongoing education that will help them make the right choices in order

to reach their goals and fulfill their dreams.

SOT teaches Health Education, Decision Making and Goal-Setting, Media Influences, Improving Communication Skills and Interpersonal Relations. It is evidence-based and covers General Learning Objectives (GLO) for Health,

"I never knew you could die from using inhalants just once. I have friends who do that, but I never knew it could kill you"

-Anonymous student

Life Science and Language Arts.

"I have cousins who do it too, but I'm going to tell them to stop now that I know the truth." a student added.

Lashay Kelihoilokai, teacher, also expressed her gratitude for the CD Program, "This is what the kids in our community need; being educated before they make choices that could alter their lives forever."

With so much positive feedback spreading like wildfire across the island, Kailua Elementary insisted on jumping on board to participate in the efforts to lead their students onto the right track, to Stay on Track that is.

With the support of the National Guard and Hawaii Counterdrug Program, waves are being made to breathe life into future generations.



Sgt. Haunani Kahiapo and Sgt. Josiah Maika pose with students from Hui Malama O Ke Kai after a Stay on Track lesson.

Photo courtesy of the Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program

Analysts Help Keep Drugs Off The Streets

Photos and story by: SrA. Jessica Donnelly

The National Guard Counterdrug (CD) Program provides many assets to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) in support of CD missions, to include aviation capabilities, observation personnel and information-sharing support. Through High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) National Guard CD personnel also work with LEAs in a pro-active role against the battle of drugs and drug-related violence.

HIDTAs are areas considered to have a high demand of drug trafficking, designated by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Through the HIDTA program facilities, LEAs are able to evaluate the risk in each of the 28 designated areas across the nation and provide the resources needed to defeat the threat.

“[The HIDTA] gives them the opportunity to be involved in fighting in the drug war,” said retired Col. Joseph Natans, Washington/Baltimore HIDTA program manager.

The CD members work as criminal analysts at the HIDTA facilities to help LEAs, by gathering information from the officers on inquiries of suspected drug activity, doing background checks on persons of interest, and ‘deconflicting’ situations to ensure officers are not working the same case.

However, even though the CD members provide information for the LEAs in drug cases, they cannot apprehend a suspect in any way.

“We cannot be directly involved,” said a member of the Washington D.C. CD Program, criminal analyst. “My basic role here is to support and assist the investigations. We try to get as much information on the individual as possible to further the investigation.”

The CD members use different data bases to enter the gathered information, including open systems that are available to everyone and closed systems that are only available to the LEAs working the case. They also use social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter, to track whether the person of interest has openly made available information about themselves online.

The CD members also use their National Guard training to help them in their daily taskings with the HIDTA.

“We use a lot of programs in the Watch Center that are similar to what we use in the military,” said a member of the Maryland CD Program, criminal analyst. “My Army job has similar characteristics to what I do in the Watch Center.”

There are 28 HIDTA locations across the nation, explained Thomas Carr, Washington/Baltimore HIDTA executive director. And even though they do not work in direct contact with each other, the data bases are electronically connected. With the interconnected systems, the analysts are able to enter information

on the drug case they are working on and if there are any previous entries they will trigger a match. They can then relay that information to the LEAs working on the case.

“The National Guard plays a very vital role in all HIDTAs. Without the Guard’s assistance, we wouldn’t have these types of support centers,” said Carr.

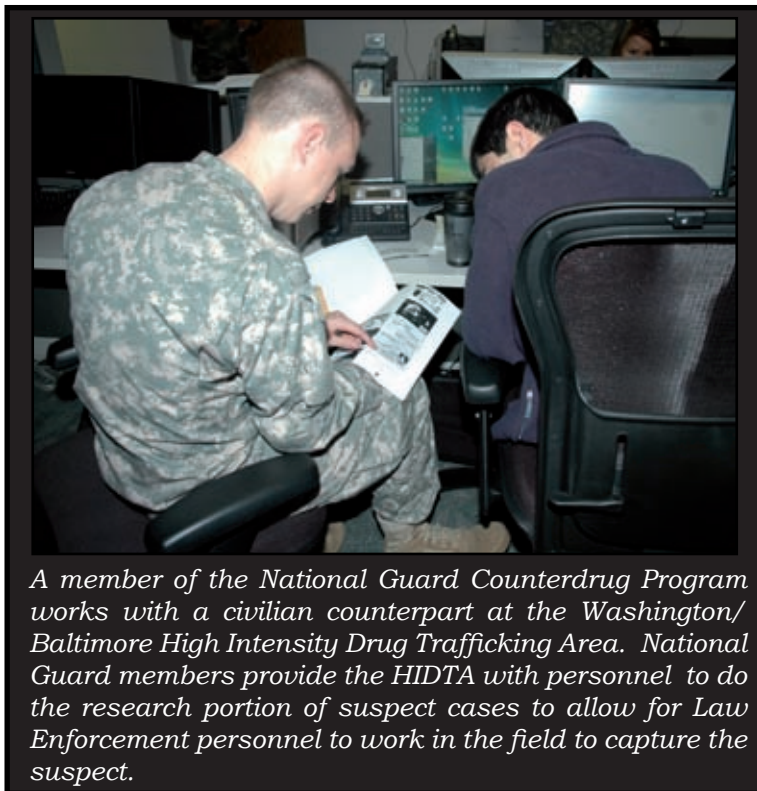
Carr added, because the National Guard CD members work in these positions, doing research for the drug cases and staffing the Watch Centers, it allows the LEA personnel to do their job on the street, catching the bad guys.

The National Guard members working at

the HIDTA see how their roles are helping the LEAs and aid in the fight against drugs when a suspect is apprehended – before committing a crime – and when they are commended from the officers.

“As I get more responses on how we’re helping, it makes your work feel more rewarding,” said a Washington D.C. Guard member.

Note: Names of the Maryland and Washington D.C. National Guard Counterdrug members have been withheld due to safety concerns and the sensitivity of the analysts’ positions.



A member of the National Guard Counterdrug Program works with a civilian counterpart at the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. National Guard members provide the HIDTA with personnel to do the research portion of suspect cases to allow for Law Enforcement personnel to work in the field to capture the suspect.

California Receives CADCA® Outstanding State National Guard DDR Program Award

By SrA. Jessica Donnelly

The California National Guard Counterdrug (CD) Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Program recently received Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) Outstanding State National Guard DDR Program Award for their superior support to Community Based Organizations (CBO), Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and educational institutions with an anti-drug nexus across the state.

"The Calif. DDR Program makes every effort to engage and be a productive member of existing coalitions and collaborative efforts," said Army National Guard Maj. Jeffery Moore, Calif. DDR administrator. "Further, Calif. DDR forms synergistic partnerships within state and local government agencies in order to support the following prevention domains – Planning and Evaluation, Education and Skill Development, Community Organization, Public and Organizational Policies, and Professional Growth and Development. These prevention domains are supported to bring about environmental changes which facilitate a drug-free environment for youth in our communities, and in our state."

John Redmond, Californians for Drug-Free Youth (CADFY) executive director, submitted the Calif. DDR Program for the CADCA award after collaborating with them on multiple community-



Photo courtesy of CADCA

Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Arthur Dean, retired, CADCA CEO, presents the Outstanding National Guard DDR Program award to 1st Lt. Ruel Fuentecilla, Calif. Southern Region DDR OIC.

based events.

"Their program partnered with CADFY and what they did that was different was they focused on the community enhancement, instead of just focusing on the educational mission," said Redmond.

He added, bringing educational awareness to schools only goes so far. The children are told not to do drugs all of the time and even though it is important to educate them on the dangers, it's more important to reduce the availability. For children whose parents move around from location to location and are regularly attending new schools, it's hard for them to fit in with cliques that have already been established. To fit in with the jocks they have to be good at

sports and to fit in with the honor students they have to be smart, but to fit in with the 'druggies' all they have to do is smoke weed.

"The coalitions bring the strategic plan and the National Guard brings the logistical knowledge," said Redmond. "...and through working together, if a [child] has a substance abuse problem we can now provide the needed aid and support."

Redmond explained, with the National Guard partnering with CBOs and LEAs, it helps expand and improve all of the groups involved and increases the capabilities of each organization. The DDR program's primary mission is still working in schools to educate students, but by supporting

CBOs it helps create a presence in the communities to enhance the success of the program.

"As long as there's support from the local community I think it's highly effective," said Air National Guard 1st Lt. Ruel Fuentecilla, Calif. Southern Region DDR OIC.

The California National Guard CD DDR Program accepted CADCA's Outstanding State National Guard DDR Program Award during a ceremony held at the Gaylord National, Washington D.C. in February.

"We, along with the National Guard, are trying to bring awareness and that's very important," said Redmond. "It's been an amazing partnership."

Virginia Counterdrug Aviation Support



Story and photo courtesy of Virginia National Guard, Public Affairs Office

National Guard Regulation 500-2, National Guard Counterdrug Support, requires Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) personnel that participate in Counterdrug aviation missions as an observer to receive familiarization training

“We provide a comprehensive base of understanding to facilitate efficient coordination between law enforcement personnel and National Guard pilots. We cover theory of flight, basic aircraft systems, internal aircraft communications systems, environmental and operational limitations, recognition of hazards to safe aircraft operation, regulations governing aircraft operations, aircraft safety and emergency considerations, and aircrew coordination considerations. The initial training concludes with a flight orientation, which includes the modes of flight for various law enforcement missions.”

-CW4 John Marsh, Counterdrug pilot

prior to flying a mission. To meet this goal, the Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Aviation Section conducts training for new observers and recertification of experienced observers annually. This year’s training is wrapping up with 111 law enforcement officials receiving their certification.

LTC Charlton Dunn, Counterdrug Coordinator, noted that “our Aviation Section also trains

aerial marijuana spotting techniques and examples of current and emerging marijuana grower tactics, techniques, and procedures. They share their accumulated knowledge from 44 years of flying marijuana eradication missions which greatly increases the law enforcement spotters’ proficiency.”

CW5 O’Bannon, a plank holder in the Counterdrug Aviation Section which was formed in 1993, noted that “for many law enforcement officials, this is the first exposure to the National Guard that they have so we take advantage of the opportunity to set the tone for a professional and productive relationship.” First Sergeant Bobbie Morris, the Virginia State Police Marijuana Eradication Program Coordinator, recognizes the effort offering praise for the “professionalism, seriousness, and dedication of the Counterdrug pilots.”

“As resources and demands have fluctuated over time,” noted Special Agent Scott Glenn, “the stable support provided from the National Guard has helped us through times of limited funding and high operational tempos. Their skill and experience always add value to our investigations.”

CW4 Wayne Martell, Counterdrug Aviation Section Chief and also a plank holder in the section, points out that “we also provide students an overview of our optical, infra-red, body wire retransmission, and imagery downlink capabilities. While many people are aware of our support for marijuana eradication, fewer are aware of the technical support role we play in investigations involving a host of other drugs.”

At the conclusion of training, the certified spotters are issued an LEA Observer card signed by the Virginia National Guard State Army Aviation Officer authorizing them to fly in the front seat of our

aircraft.

Lieutenant Kevin M. Hood, Virginia State Police, indicated “They have always accommodated our needs and those of local law enforcement agencies. In fact, they have always bent over backwards to help and have the highest respect from all Virginia law enforcement agencies.”

VIRGINIA COUNTERDRUG TRAINS

Story and photos by Virginia Counterdrug Staff

Virginia National Guard Soldiers, from eight units across the state, recently attended Unit Prevention Leader training in Sandston, Va., hosted by the National Guard Joint Substance Abuse Program (JSAP).

"The JSAP program is responsible for substance abuse testing of all Soldiers and Airmen in the Virginia National Guard," said Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Tony Linton, JSAP coordinator.

"Given the volume of testing required, we have a decentralized system where units collect their own samples based upon lists provided by my office."

He added, this amounted to more than 8,530 samples collected and tested last year.

"The Unit Prevention Leaders are key to us meeting our testing

goals given the amount of work there is to be done," said Army National Guard Staff Sgt. James Long, JSAP assistant coordinator. "We are responsible for training enough Unit Prevention Leader to

"Substance abuse is a drain on manpower, funding, organizational energy, morale, safety, and in the final analysis--combat power,"
- Maj. Charlton Dunn

support all units be they stateside or deployed."

Linton detailed the process involved in what is commonly referred to as drug testing.

"Units coordinate with my office for quarterly or monthly testing. We generate testing rosters and provide testing supplies just

prior to testing," explained Linton. "After the unit collects the samples, they are delivered to the JSAP office in

Sandston, Virginia, where we conduct quality control

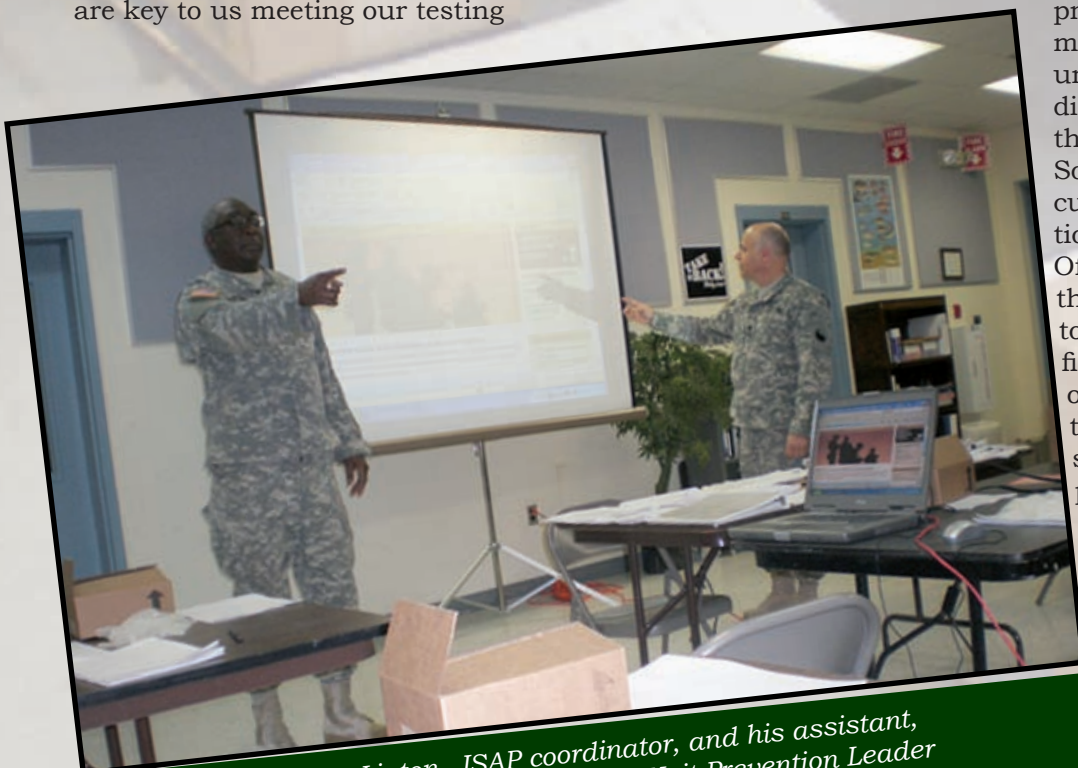
to ensure samples are properly packaged and documented. They are then sent to a laboratory in Texas where they are tested for six different drug types. Results are received from the lab and we generate Positive Urinalysis Result packets for those testing positive, which are then sent to the MACOM and unit for action. This

process, from collection to notification of a positive result, can be as fast as two weeks."

Long explained the process that takes place when there are positive results for prescription drugs in the test samples.

"Dextroamphetamine or 'DAMP' is typically a positive result for a prescription medication a Soldier may have been taking when the urinalysis was conducted. If a soldier has tested positive for DAMP, the unit is notified to contact the Soldier and have them provide current evidence or documentation of the prescription to the JSAP Office," said Long. "The JSAP Office then forwards the documentation to the state's Medical Review Officer (MRO) for his determination on the result. If the MRO finds that the current prescription is sufficient evidence to produce a positive result for DAMP, the case is closed and the unit and Soldier are notified as such. If the MRO has determined that the documentation does not provide sufficient evidence of prescription use to have produced a positive result, the Soldier will be processed for a positive result."

Army National Guard Sgt. Danny Joyner, Prevention,



Sgt. 1st Class Tony Linton, JSAP coordinator, and his assistant, Staff Sgt. James Long, teach students the Unit Prevention Leader training course.

UNIT PREVENTION LEADERS

Treatment, and Outreach coordinator, also briefed during the Unit Prevention Leader training.

"This program will also refer family members for assistance if the family issues are affecting the Soldier," said Joyner. "Airmen and Soldiers are not fully prepared to focus on their jobs if their families are struggling with issues."

Beyond substance abuse treatment, Joyner said that he has successfully referred servicemembers to resources for mental health, finances, homelessness, and family issues.

Linton explained, for the drug-testing, there is not one set number of troops to test per year, it is always changing.

"Due to fluctuations in troop strength and deployments, the annual testing goal is a moving target," said Linton.

As a result his office plans to exceed the goal rather than just meet the goal.

Army National Guard Maj. Charlton Dunn, Virginia National Guard Counterdrug coordinator who also manages the JSAP program, noted, "Due to the professionalism and dedication of JSAP personnel, as well as the Unit Prevention Leaders, we were able to test 107% of soldiers

and 84% of Airmen last year, exceeding the standard."

In addition to the JSAP

program, the Counterdrug Program places Guardsmen in the community conducting Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) classes for schools and civic organizations, supports Law Enforcement Agencies

(LEA) with criminal analysts and technical support, and provides aviation support to LEAs.

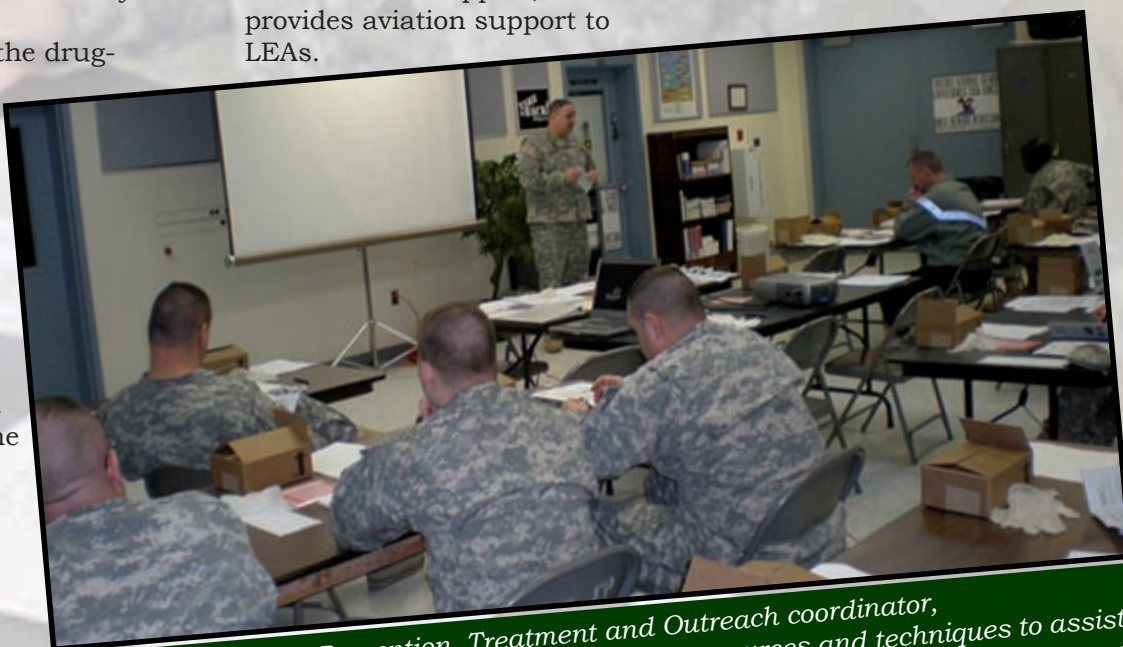
"While Hollywood will never make a movie about the JSAP program, the JSAP program plays a vital role in maintaining combat power in three ways:

- 1) Identify servicemembers with problems who we can treat and retain,**
- 2) Identify servicemembers with problems that need to be removed from service,**
- 3) Act as a deterrent to substance abuse."**

All of the students passed the final examination of the Unit Prevention Leader training and based upon student After Action Review feedback, the training was deemed a success. Several students pointed out that "the instructor engaged the class very well" and that the "practical knowledge was very useful."

"My job is to ensure that any Soldier or Airman who want to receive treatment for substance abuse, or any other issue such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder issues, that can negatively affect Soldier readiness are referred to the appropriate resource within the Commonwealth,"

- Sgt. Danny Joyner



Sgt. Danny Joyner, Prevention, Treatment and Outreach coordinator, educates Unit Prevention Leader students on his resources and techniques to assist unit leadership in identifying and assisting Guardsmen with potential substance abuse problems. He also provided additional information on how he can provide resources to assist Guardsmen or their families with a wide variety of other issues.

Tennessee Drug Demand Reduction

**Story and photos by
SrA. Jessica Donnelly**

"How many of you young adults have already been offered drugs, alcohol or tobacco?" asked Army National Guard Spc. Kristine Purcell to a classroom of sixth graders at T.W. Hunter Middle School, Tenn.

And with a room full of mostly 11 and 12-year-olds, a scattering of hands were raised.

Purcell is part of a team of National Guardsmen who work in the Counterdrug Program as Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) members. They visit schools all over Tennessee to bring their anti-drug message to students of all ages. For sixth, seventh and eighth graders, the message is delivered through a 12-session course called Stay on Track (SOT).

Purcell explained, the pressure to try drugs and the availability will always be there for these students, but with SOT, it educates them on the dangers of taking drugs, as well as teaches them a way to say no.

"The purpose of these classes is to give you the information you need," said Purcell. "You need the information to be strong enough to say no."

Purcell teaches the lesson by coaching the students on how to use their body language and nonverbal clues to help them get their point across when offered drugs. If they come across as timid or passive, they are more likely to be coerced into trying it through peer pressure. On the other hand, if they come off too aggressive someone could get hurt. Purcell teaches the students to be assertive and say no then walk away from the situation.

To make sure the students were listening, Purcell loudly asked, "How do we want to be class?"

"Assertive!" replied the students.

However, since the



Spc. Kristine Purcell picks volunteers to help her demonstrate non-verbal communication during a Stay on Track lesson at T.W. Hunter Middle School.

DDR Program is offered in many schools across the state, the members meet the challenge of coming in contact with different areas and upbringings of the students. Because of this, the SOT instructors have learned to change up their teaching styles to relate to the audience.

City

While T.W. Hunter Middle School is located in a suburb, Central Middle School is directly

outside of the city of Nashville, Tenn., and the students face challenges which suburb children never come across.

"You have to change the teaching style up for inner-city schools and rural schools and still get the same message across," said Army National Guard Sgt. Maurice Box, SOT instructor. "In a rural area they may not see [drugs] as much, but they do have it. Then the inner-city [children]



DRUG STATS

Health Effects of Drugs

A National Vital Statistics Report found that 38,396 persons died of drug-induced causes in 2006. Of the drug-induced deaths, 13,889 were females. Drug-induced deaths include deaths from dependent and nondependent use of drugs (legal and illegal use) and poisoning from medically prescribed and other drugs. It excludes unintentional injuries, homicides, and other causes indirectly related to drug use. Also excluded are newborn deaths due to mother's drug use.

** Drug stats and facts come from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
Web site: www.ondcp.gov*

Teaches Kids To Be Assertive

are dealing with it on an everyday basis.”

An example of how the teaching method differs is seen in how Purcell uses interactive lessons with the students volunteering to participate and come to the front of the class, where as Box is more likely to have the seventh grade students at Central read out loud from the SOT book during a session since they are more prone to be unruly during other classes.

Another example of the difference in the school comes with the children's backgrounds.

“A lot of the time they'll know more about the drugs than we do,” said Box.

Role Models

No matter where the location of the school, the SOT message is always the same. The DDR members give the students the education they need to make the choice to say no to drugs while working to create a trusting relationship with the students. The National Guard members create open channels of communication between them and the students. That way, the students have an adult to confide in when they come across situations where they need advice.

Box explained, the students might be scared to talk to a teacher because they don't want to get in trouble, but they'll go to him because they see him as an authority figure that they can trust.

“It has been a very

helpful program that has opened up communication,” said Paige Swanson, Central Middle School guidance counselor. “[The students] are inviting us into their conversations.”

It may take the students a couple of weeks to warm up the DDR members, but once the students feel comfortable they really begin to open up, added Purcell.

And the students aren't the only ones who are inspired by the DDR members. The school officials also enjoy working with the program.

“The coordinators appreciate working with the National Guard because the Soldiers treat it like a mission,” said Nancy Morris, Prevention coordinator. “They're very dependable and we appreciate that especially in a school setting.”

Impact

Although neither institute officially tracks the affects of the SOT Program in their school, Central Middle School officials have seen a difference in the student's behavior since the program has been in place.

“It's been a lot calmer in the hallways and it's been a lot calmer in the classrooms,” said Swanson.

T. W. Hunter has seen a difference through numbers.

Morris explained, the county does anonymous surveys from the students each year to estimate the potential drug threats and the number



Sgt. Maurice Box teaches from the book during a Stay on Track lesson at Central Middle School.

of students participating with drugs and alcohol. The number of students reported taking drugs and alcohol has decreased over the past couple of years.

“We have seen improvement in the students with the programs we have in place,” said Morris.

The SOT Program has also helped the students come forward when they know someone who is using drugs. Central Middle School reported a story of success which they contribute to the help of the program where a student told the SOT instructor about someone they knew using drugs, said Swanson.

“She recognized the drug through the drug trailer and came forward about it,” said Swanson. “It's been a very helpful program.”

Reduction Program

Besides teaching the students about the dangers of drugs and how to say “no,” the DDR members provide educa-

tion on the influence of peer pressure and techniques on how to de-stress, as well as using an informational drug trailer which they bring to schools to show the students examples of drugs.

The DDR Program also hosts a summer camp for children who have made bad decisions but want a second chance. And most of the time it is their last opportunity to make the change or go to juvenile detention, said Air National Guard Capt. Linda Williams, DDR administrator.

“It's a true mentoring program,” said Williams. “By the end, it's a huge change in the [children].”

The Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Drug Demand Reduction Program works to give the children the best chance at having the strength to say no to drugs and make the right decisions for their life.

“I'm here to impact that one life,” said Purcell. “I'm very rewarded in what I do.”

PA CDTF Member

**Photos and story by:
SrA Jessica Donnelly**

The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center offers many no-cost training classes that teach different skills to the attending Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) Law Enforcement Agents (LEAs). But with the Drug Identification course, they also get the opportunity to learn about the capabilities of man's best friend.

Keith Ocker, a canine handler for 14 years who has been with the CDTF for the past seven years, works with a German Sheppard named Centa, a drug detection canine, who takes his job very seriously.

"He's an aggressive alert dog," said Ocker.



Centa bites at the pick-up truck when he has detected the smell of illegal drugs. An aggressive alert dog who will bite, scratch and growl when he detects narcotics.



Keith Ocker, Pennsylvania Counterdrug Task Force (PA CDTF) canine handler, talks to the class about the capabilities of the dogs used to help find illegal drugs when doing searches.

Centa will bite, scratch and dig at any object that has the scent of illegal drugs, opposed to a passive alert dog who will sit when the smell has been detected. The passive alert dogs are primarily used for more sensitive searches, such as a bomb that could go off if an aggressive dog bit it, explained Ocker.

The dogs are trained to recognize the scent of illegal drugs and give an alert when the smell has been detected. The trainers reinforce the behavior of the dogs by giving them a treat when the narcotics are found to keep them motivated during searches, said Ocker. The dogs have a much more sensitive sense of smell than their human partners and are able to detect even faint traces of the drugs.

"Marijuana has a very distinct smell," said Ocker. "They learn

the odors and give the alerts."

Ocker explained, canine units try to teach other LEAs to call a canine to an area of interest before the officers enter the residence to search. If the dog is able to enter the house before it has been disrupted they are better able to detect smells. However, if officers go in first and start moving objects

**"It's amazing to see how things haven't changed much in the history of drug use,"
- John Goshert.**

they "disturb the scent cone" which makes it harder for the canine to determine the exact location of the drugs.

"We teach them to call for the dog prior to the search," said Ocker. "If you have a dog available, try to call them out."

& Man's Best Friend



Keith Ocker gives Centa his play toy after he has successfully found the location of the drugs. Canine handlers teach the dogs to want to find the narcotics through positive reenforcement, when they find the illegal drugs, they get a treat.

The Drug Identification course deals with more than just the drug canines. There is also a classroom portion where the students learn how to identify and safely interact with drug users, why people use drugs, as well as the history of drug use.

"It's amazing to see how things haven't changed much in the history of drug use," said John Goshert, instructor. "History always repeats itself."

The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center is part of the Counterdrug school system. There

are five schools across the nation offering free training to LEAs, community leaders and military members. The schools include Midwest Counterdrug Training Center in Des Moines, Iowa, the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training Center in St. Petersburg, Florida, the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center in Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy in Meridian, Mississippi, a the most recent location, Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center in Tacoma, Washington.



DRUG FACTS



Marijuana Myth

Marijuana is *not* addictive

It was once believed that marijuana was not addictive; many people still believe this to be the case. But recent research shows that use of the drug can indeed lead to dependence.

Some heavy users of marijuana develop withdrawal symptoms when they have not used the drug for a period of time.

The desire for marijuana exerts a powerful pull on those who use it, and this desire, coupled with withdrawal symptoms, can make it hard for longterm smokers to stop using the drug. Users trying to quit often report irritability, anxiety, and difficulty sleeping. On psychological tests they also display increased aggression, which peaks approximately one week after they last used the drug.

** Drug stats and facts come from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site: www.ondcp.gov*

GaCTF Woodland Operations Training

Story and Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry, Georgia Public Affairs Office

RINGGOLD, Ga., -- More than 20 local, state and federal officers from departments and agencies across Georgia took part in the five-day woodland training course held by the Georgia Counterdrug Task Force (GaCDTF) and taught by Georgia Army Guard members, who make up the task forces' ground reconnaissance teams.

While some of the participating officers are prior military, most are not, Guard officials said. This is the first time many have worked together or worked with the task force.

Training includes land navigation, movement as a tactical team, patrol and reconnaissance operations, team development, and the use of cover and concealment done in what the military calls the "crawl, walk and run" phases.



A Georgia law enforcement officer and his partner check the area ahead of their group as they move closer to the location where "suspects" are supposed to be making a drug deal.

"We start slow and build-up until they're running their own missions with our people standing by to answer questions," said one course instructor. Because of the nature of their work, instructors and many of the officers cannot be identified by name or department.

The training's main emphasis, according to another instructor, is the art of military mission planning. "Many civilian law enforcement agencies use a 'plan in the van' mentality because many of the operations they do are short notice," he explained. "What we do is give them the tools to do that planning – even on the fly – better."

These joint trainings, have allowed GaCDTF, Guard, local, state and federal authorities to hone their skills and streamline their interoperability. This highly proficient teamwork was on full display during a successful narcotics seizure made in Georgia's Rabun County early in April.

Assisted by the Georgia Counterdrug Task Force, Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Regional Drug Office, Narcotics Criminal Investigation and Suppression (N.C.I.S.) Team, the ATF, and the Georgia

"By putting to use what we learn here at the Woodland Training Course, my colleagues and I can make a greater difference in the fight against illegal drugs,"
-Georgia Police Officer

Department of Natural Resources seized more than 700 marijuana plants. The street value of the plants is estimated at \$3.5 million.

"Drug dealers aren't just in the city," said one of the officers going through this year's training. "They're using the beauty of our rural communities to hide their activities."

The Woodland Training Course has been in operation for 13 years. The concept was fostered by now retired Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Maj., and retired Gordon County Police Chief, Therrell Goswick, who was a founding member of the counterdrug task force, then known as the Governor's Strike Force.

While Woodland Training is an annual course, operational commitments of the Georgia National Guard to the Global War on Terror have sometimes restricted the GaCDTF's ability to conduct the training every year.



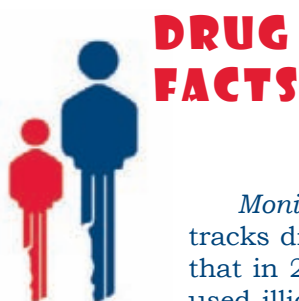
Photo by MSgt. Megan Hunter

Sgt. Angelis Hunter, D.C. Guard Drug Demand Reduction Specialist gives a girl a National Guard lanyard during a Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) event in Washington D.C.



NGB/J32-CD State Display

To request the above state display for your event, please contact your NGB State Plans Representative for further guidance on obtaining the display.



Drug Testing in Schools

Monitoring the Future, a national survey that tracks drug use among America's youth, reports that in 2001 more than half of all students had used illicit drugs by the time they finished high school. Moreover, the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse revealed that of the 4.5 million people age 12 and older who need drug treatment, 23 percent are teenagers.

Research shows that people who make it through their teenage years without using drugs are much less likely to start using them when they are older. So if testing can help keep kids off drugs and alcohol, if it can help free young minds for learning and allow growing bodies to escape the devastating cycle of dependence or addiction, it will be a valuable and important new tool.

** Drug stats and facts come from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site: www.ondcp.gov*



Members of the Arizona National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program pose with students from Phoenix and Tucson during the Freedom Academy, a camp focused on teaching the children about leadership, team building, communication skills and drug education through a variety of activities.

Photo courtesy of the Arizona National Guard Joint Counternarcotics Task Force (JCNTF)

South Carolina CD Member Teaches Students Life Skills



Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jimmy Martin, South Carolina National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, spoke to students at Frances Mack Primary in Gaston, S.C., April 29. Over the course of the day, Martin spoke to about 500 students.

**For More Information
on the National Guard Bureau
Counterdrug Program**

visit our Web Site:

<http://ngbcounterdrug.ng.mil>